

wear it—[laughter]—in public that is. [Laughter]

The Duke women's golf team is here to celebrate the national championship in—they were in 2002. They're back. Coach Brooks of the Duke women's golf team has now won three national championships with the Blue Devils. That ties him with Coach K. Therefore, he shall be known as Coach B—not bad. [Laughter]

The Johns Hopkins men's lacrosse team is with us today. And Congressman Elijah Cummings is here to honor them. Johns Hopkins compiled a perfect record and pulled out a 9–8 victory to win the first championship they've had in almost two decades. Congratulations to Johns Hopkins.

The Pepperdine men's volleyball team is with us today. They brought the championship trophy back to Malibu in the first time in more than a decade. I want to thank them for the gift, Surfboard One. [Laughter]

And finally, we honor the Oklahoma men's gymnastics team. It's the third national championship they've won in the past 4 years.

It's such an honor to have you all here. I want to thank you for being champs on the field. I want to thank you for being champs off the field. I know you know this, but there's a lot of boys and girls

who watch you all to determine what it means to be a champ. You probably don't realize it, but when you're in the field of play, there's a lot of kids wondering what it takes.

And therefore, when you serve your community, you're teaching a kid to read, or when you take the extra time to set a good example, you really are affecting people's lives. See, you have a responsibility as a champ, not only to win contests for your respective schools and set personal goals and achieve them, but I think you have a responsibility as a champ to set a good example. And I've read about the mentoring programs and the hospital work and all the good works that you have done, and I want to thank you for setting such a good example.

Again, welcome to the White House. If you're a junior or a sophomore, work hard and come back. I'll be here to greet you. In the meantime, may God bless you all and your families. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Dan Brooks, head women's golf coach, and Mike Krzyzewski, head men's basketball coach, Duke University.

Memorandum on Delegation of Functions Under Section 9 of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004

July 12, 2005

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Delegation of Functions under Section 9 of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby dele-

gate to you the functions and authorities assigned to the President under section 9 of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 (19 U.S.C. 3701 note).

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: This memorandum was not received for publication in the *Federal Register*.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters July 13, 2005

The President. Thank you all for coming. We have just finished our third Cabinet meeting of the year. I want to thank my Secretaries for being here today, and thank you for the briefing. Today's briefing reminded us about the strength of our economy. We had some good news today. OMB is going to announce that the 2005 deficit is \$94 billion less than previously expected. In other words, revenues are coming in greater than anticipated. It's a sign that our economy is strong, and it's a sign that our tax relief plan, our progrowth policies, are working.

I told the Congress and told the country we'd cut the deficit in half by 2009. We're ahead of projections now. In other words, these numbers indicate that we're going to cut the deficit in half faster than the year 2009, so long as Congress holds the line on spending.

And so, my message to the United States Congress is: Let's be wise with the taxpayers' money. My Cabinet is committed to that, and we look forward to working with the appropriators to make sure that they spend your money wisely.

This good news on the deficit and on the budget is coupled with good economic news when it comes to job creation. Our unemployment rate is down to 5 percent. We've created more than 2 million jobs this year. More Americans are working today than ever before in our Nation's history.

Over the next couple of weeks, I look forward to working with Congress to continue progrowth policies. One is getting an energy bill. Secondly is to promote free

and fair trade. And the matter at hand is a free trade agreement with our neighborhood and countries in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Finally, I hope we can continue to press for and pass legal reform. I think it's a very important message to say to our job creators, small-business owners, that we'll have a fair legal system, and Congress has got some legal reform matters pending.

And finally—finally, finally, we want to work with Congress to pass a fiscally responsible highway bill. Again, I want to thank my Cabinet for being here.

I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions. Mark Knoller [CBS Radio], are you with us?

CIA Employee Identity Disclosure Investigation

Q. You bet. Thank you, sir. Can I ask you if you have spoken with your Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove about the Valerie Plame matter? And do you think he acted improperly in talking about it with reporters?

The President. Mark, I have instructed every member of my staff to fully cooperate in this investigation. I also will not prejudge the investigation based on media reports. We're in the midst of an ongoing investigation, and I will be more than happy to comment further once the investigation is completed.

Elaine [Elaine Quijano, Cable News Network].